



STUART POND

Sterling

Area = 38 Acres

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND GAME
Bureau of Wildlife Research and Management

STUARTS POND
Sterling, Worcester County

General Information

Stuart Pond has also been known as Washington Pond, Ross Mill Pond, and Stump Pond in the past. It is part of a chain of water supplies formerly controlled by the Metropolitan District Commission. It is artificial in origin and is open to the public by agreement with the owner.

Area: 38 acres. Maximum depth; 9 feet. No trout water. No boat livery. Easily accessible from East Princeton center via Stuart Road and Justice Hill Road Cutoff.

Stocking History

Horned pout (41,065; 1926-49) (120 lbs.; 1954), yellow perch (8,880; 1923-49) (120 lbs.; 1954), chain pickerel (2,341; 1923-49) (120 lbs., 1954), white perch (1,600; 1934-49), crappie (1,169; 1932-49), golden shiners (950; 1932-49), sunfish (90; 1932-49), forage fish (500; 1933), bluegills (300; 1932).

Fish and Fishing

Stuart's Pond was considered a good pickerel, panfish pond during the early 1940's. Occasional large crappie and white perch were taken along with many bullheads, or horned pout. In recent years however, fishing success had declined and good catches were rare.

Management

In September of 1953, Stuart's Pond was drained to enable repair work to be carried out on the dam. This drainage operation provided an opportunity for the Division of Fisheries and Game to eliminate the existing fish population and later restock the pond with desirable fish. Rotenone was used to poison out the remaining water areas after the water level was down. The following spring (1954) chain pickerel, yellow perch and brown bullheads were stocked in the pond.

In September of 1954 a spot check with rotenone was made to find out how the fish population was coming along. Young pickerel were very abundant, and bullheads had spawned successfully. Apparently the yellow perch stocked had not spawned in the pond, because no young of the year were taken. It was obvious from this spot check that the reclamation had been incomplete because besides the stocked species, yellow bullheads, banded sunfish, and bluegills were found to be present.

In August of 1955 another spot check with rotenone was made. Pickerel were again found to be abundant, and practically all the different species found the year before had spawned successfully.

During the ice fishing season of 1955-56 the pond was checked occasionally by Division personnel. Most of the pickerel reported caught were less than 14" and were returned to the water. These 10" to 12" pickerel were probably less than 2 years old and should provide some fishing during 1956. Brown bullheads should also reach desirable size this summer. This pond may require panfish thinning operations within the next few years due to the failure of the reclamation job to eliminate them originally.